Sub-Regional EPF office at Keonjhar, Orissa

1285. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request to open a Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar, Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that Regional Committee of Orissa in its meeting No. 60 held on the 3rd May, 2002 also recommended opening of Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, the proposal was not found feasible as it did not meet the minimum requirement of various parameters as per the norms evolved for the purpose of opening of Sub-Regional office of EPFO.

ESI cover to employees in Karnataka

1286. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees covered, so far, under Employees State Insurance Act in Karnataka;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that a large number of Establishments which have more than twenty five workers are not yet covered under ESI Act in the State; and

(c) whether Government would conduct an extensive survey in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As on 31.3.2003 the number of employees covered under the Employees State Insurance Act in Karnataka was 7,18,432.

(b) No Sir. However, the Regional Office, ESI Corporation, Karnataka had received 23 complaints regarding non-coverage. After a survey and

examining their coverage, 20 units were found coverable and were registered under the Act.

(c) Periodical surveys are carried out by the ESI Corporation to register all coverable units under the Act from time to time. During the year 2002-2003, 892 such surveys were carried out.

Nation-wide Trade Union Strike

1287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of the Trade Unions had met him on the 19th May, 2003 on his invitation and made clear their decision to go ahead with the nation-wide trade union strike to protest against the economic, anti-national and anti-people policies of Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government was presented an eight point charter of demands; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main demands raised by the Central Trade Unions were:

- Halt to privatisation of profit making and potentially viable public sector undertakings.
- No change in the labour laws in favour of the employers and against the interest of the workers.
- Immediate enactment of comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers.
- No to policies leading to severe aggravation of joblessness and unemployment.
- Widen comprehensive social security schemes for all, including workers in unorganised sector.
- Restoration of quantitative restrictions on imports.
- Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act by removing all ceilings.
- Restoration of 12% interest rate of P.F. deposits.